

knew before the sweetness of talking alone with our Father who seeth in secret?

6. Have you watched the sparrows during the cold winter days, and have they taught you of our Father's care? Not one of them falleth without your Father. You are of more value than many swallows. No little bird of hope has ceased singing in your heart "without your Father." He knows all, and he cares.

7. There was a personal call from Jesus to you in our lesson of February 13. He said, "Follow me." Have you followed him? If not, where are you staying? Anywhere with Jesus is a safe way. Anywhere without him is dark and dangerous.

8. Could we possibly count what we have received in temporal and spiritual blessing during the past quarter? It might stir our gratitude to try. How much have we given? No blessing is really our own until we have shared it with another.

9. There is tender warning and loving invitation in that little word, "Come." As a mother bird calls her brood under her wings when danger threatens, so Jesus would gather us safe in his care. As a mother rests her tired child, so would he take us in his arms to comfort and rest our hearts. Young or old, it makes no difference; to all Jesus speaks that sweet word, "Come."

10. Do you recall the principles by which to test all questions of what we may or may not do on Sunday? Let us be honest about this. Let us have convictions, and not drift with the tide. "Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth."

11. How much have you thought since our lesson two weeks ago about that beautiful time when the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father? I pray that every member of my class may "shine as the stars for ever and ever."

12. How are you keeping that heart of yours? Are you planting weeds and thorns, or roses and sweet fruits? May it be truly said of it, "I, the Lord, do keep it; I will water it every moment; lest any hurt it I will keep it night and day."

Before the Class

Introduction. Jesus came to the world as "the Light of the world," to light every man who would willingly follow his guidance. He came to show to the world by his teaching and his life the great facts concerning the Christian religion, and in these lessons which we have been studying the past quarter we have had presented some of the chief characteristics of a true Christian life.

Lesson I. This lesson presents to us the first step, the entering step, to the Christian life—repentance. True repentance is manifested forth not by words, but by deeds. A tree is known by its fruits; so a life is known by its activities. If one has turned his back upon darkness and is walking in the light, the fruits of his new course will soon manifest themselves. This is a sure test, and one which Jesus himself gives us. Knowing

the right is needful, but it is the doing of that which is right that brings the approval of God upon us.

Lesson II. Entrance upon Christian living at once brings us into opposition to the powers of evil. They who before were with us are now against us, and we shall need all our strength to resist if we are to overcome. But in this warfare we are not alone, for God is with us, and "If God be with us, who can be against us?" But while we are resisting evil and waiting upon the promises of God, we must be careful not to run needlessly into temptation, but remember our weakness, and pray, "Lead us not into temptation."

Lesson III. Growth comes from right activity, and spiritual growth comes from right spiritual activity. This lesson emphasizes this truth and gives us the example of Jesus himself for us to follow. Teaching and ministering are the forms which our activity may take. This was the work of the Master—teaching the multitudes and ministering to their many needs. Shall we not follow in his footsteps?

Lesson IV. This wonderful lesson on the Beatitudes presents in a beautiful word picture the elements in a Christian life. We look at these, and in the one glance we see the ideal which we are to actualize in our lives. Poverty of spirit, sorrow for sin, meekness, hunger for righteousness, merciful spirit, purity of heart, love of peace, steadfast love for righteousness, present a beautiful picture which should inspire us all to the most earnest activity.

Lesson V. Work is not enough to sustain spiritual life; prayer—communion with God, the source of life—is just as needful. These two, prayer and work, act and react upon each other, and the resultant is the upbuilding of the Christian into the ideal. Prayer to be effective must be real, from the heart; this sort is heard and answered of God.

VI. There constantly comes into the Christian life the necessity for choosing even after the great choice has been made. The temptation will come to choose those things which are for the moment the most attractive and promise the largest and most immediate returns. We must guard ourselves against this, and at the beginning of our Christian life resolve that whenever we are called upon to make a choice we will always, with God's help, choose the higher, and trust to God for the supply of all things needful to the temporal sphere.

Lesson VII. Following Jesus means much to a consecrated disciple of the Lord. It means implicit, unquestioning obedience to the word of the Lord as that word may be revealed to one. The example of Matthew in immediately leaving all to follow Jesus is one worthy of our emulation.

Lesson VIII. When the Lord calls us to a special mission, before he sends us out he adequately equips us for the work demanded. If we have not the equipment for a certain work, we may well question whether we have a present call to do that work. It may be that we shall be called upon to do work for

which at the time we have not the preparation, but in such cases before we are sent out the Lord will open up the opportunity for such preparation.

Lesson IX. One of the blessings which come to us upon accepting Christ is the gift of rest which is "given" at the outset to all his disciples. A further blessing is the great blessing of rest which we "find" as a result of activity in Christ's service. Yoked together with him, learning of him, working for the redemption of the world with him brings this deeper blessing.

Lesson X. The last three lessons present three very important characteristics of a true Christian life. This one impresses the importance of a right keeping of the Sabbath of the Lord God. Just now this truth stands in great need of thoughtful, earnest teaching. While the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath, still it was made for him to use in such a way as would be conducive to his highest spiritual growth. The two principles to guide us as to what work may be done on the Sabbath are laid down by Jesus—works of necessity and works of mercy.

Lesson XI. Jesus' exhortation to us, "Judge not, that ye be not judged," is needed today. One of the most dangerous tendencies in our human nature is the tendency to judge our fellow-man, and the results are often disastrous. As the new life grows in us we see in our associates souls to be redeemed rather than evildoers to be condemned. And yet we are in constant need of the exhortation of Jesus, and need to be constantly on our guard against the judging of those around us.

Lesson XII. This last lesson shows us the kind of men needed in the affairs of this world today—men like John the Baptist, who will fearlessly stand for the right at all times and under all circumstances, being "faithful even unto death," are the ones who are the safeguards of the nations. Every Christian should have as one of his mottoes, "Fidelity in service," this service being the service of righteousness.

Our Bible School

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

THE PROPHETS—HOSEA

I. Biography.

- a. Time of his prophetic work. Hos. 1:1.
- b. Parentage. Hos. 1:1.
- c. Prophecies against idolatrous Israel. Hos. 4:13.
- d. Prophecies against the priests. Hos. 5:1, 6:9.
- e. Prophecies against the princes. Hos. 7:5.
- f. Tho a stern prophet, yet his heart was overflowing with love for his sinning people. Hos. 6:1-3, 13:14.

II. Life Lessons.

- a. People are destroyed for lack of knowledge of God. Hos. 4:6. Jno. 15:21.